



September 13, 2004

RELIEF FOR STUDENTS NEEDING ROAD TESTS

The Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety (DMVS) has finalized plans for a pilot program aimed at reducing the wait times for students needing an on-the-road driving test for their Class D or Class C driver's license. House Bill 1168, passed during the last session of the Georgia General Assembly, authorizes the DMVS to administer a six-month pilot program. This program will explore the feasibility of partnering with driver training schools to conduct on-the-road tests and eliminating the need for the applicant to be tested by a DMVS examiner. The House Committee on Motor Vehicles will analyze the program results when the legislature reconvenes in January 2005.

Beginning September 15th, eleven driver education schools in the State will offer their students an opportunity to take the on-the-road driving skills test from the school. Only students who have successfully completed a program consisting of thirty hours of classroom and six hours of behind-the-wheel training from one of the participating schools will be eligible for this service. After the student has passed the on-the-road test, the driver training school will issue a certificate which the student will take to a DMVS Customer Service Center (CSC) to be issued a Class D or Class C driver's license. The student will not be retested at the CSC.

After instructors have been approved and trained by the DMVS, they will be authorized to conduct testing at the school two days each week during daylight hours. Students who have recently completed a driver training program will be contacted by the school alerting them to this new service. Schools may charge a fee for the road skills test. However, student appointments will continue to be scheduled at the CSCs without cost.

The schools selected to participate represent a cross-section of driver education programs throughout the State.

Participating Schools

Taggart's DUI, SA & DIC, DeKalb County
Nathan's Driving School, Fulton County
Alpha Driving School; Fulton County
Risk Reduction & Defensive Driving School, Gwinnett County
Roebuck's Driving School, Gwinnett County
AA Action Academy of Driving, Forsyth County
A Driving Advantage 2, Carroll County
Jones High School, Jones County
Brock's Driver Education School, Richmond County
A+ Rome Driving School, Floyd County
AFA Driving Academy, Muscogee County

Schools selected to participate had to meet certain criteria including holding a license for at least one year and conducting both driver education and adult driver education courses on a full-time basis. Schools could not be cited for any violations which may lead to revocation or suspension of the school's license or an instructor license for a period of one year. Schools also agree to participate in training and to comply with all the rules and regulations promulgated by the DMVS for the pilot program.

Recent changes in State law have required that all on-the-road tests be given in real time traffic situations. This has doubled the time necessary for a road test to be administered. That requirement and the escalating number of eligible teens needing tests have created a backlog of road test reservations throughout the State. Metro-Atlanta parents oftentimes travel to South Georgia or the Alabama line to obtain road tests for their youngsters. Reservations for on-the-road tests for anyone getting their first Class D drivers license are mandatory and typically book twelve weeks in advance.

"It is fitting that driver training schools partner with the State to administer on-the-road tests for our teenagers. With us they share a commitment to ensure that only those that are highly skilled and competent behind the wheel receive a driver's license," said James R. Davis, DMVS Commissioner. "In addition, this should help alleviate the backlog of road test reservations and ultimately allow examiners to return inside to assist other customers," he added.

More information on scheduling road tests and other teen driving requirements may be found at www.dmv.ga.gov.